

Growing Militancy in Guiana

from CHEDDI JAGAN

Two years ago in October the elected Government of the Peoples' Progressive Party of British Guiana was forcibly dissolved and the Constitution, granted only six months earlier, was smashed by Britain's Imperialist Government.

On the anniversary of this foul deed, Cheddi Jagan, leader of the P.P.P. contributes an article.



THE first significant event on the labour front since the suspension of the British Guiana Constitution and the expulsion of the Government formed by the Peoples' Progressive Party in October, 1953, is the recent strike of the Sawmill Workers. More than 1200 workers downed tools, and closed all the major sawmills in the city of Georgetown, the capital of British Guiana.

Negotiations with the Employers' organisation, the Forest Products Association, reached a deadlock. Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union, on behalf of workers, had put forward a 5-point demand, included a daily wage of \$3.52 (14s. 8d.).

The Sawmill Workers' demand for \$3.52 per day is in line with the wage claim recently made by the Federation of Unions of Government Employees. Despite the strong arguments put up based on the above facts, the Government, about two months ago, agreed to pay a minimum of only \$2.52 per day, however, making it retro-active to January 1954.

The Forest Products Association was not prepared to pay even this Government minimum wage, although since 1949, the Sawmill workers' minimum had been tied to that of Government. British Guiana Timbers, a Colonial Development subsidiary, has gone one step further. They countered the Union's strike call with a notice of non-recognition.

SIGNIFICANCE

This strike is of particular significance since the trade union movement has not fully recovered from the disruption and disunity following the removal from office nearly two years ago of the P.P.P. Government. That offensive of the British Government gave rise to the reactionary trade union leaders.

November 1953, some Right Wing and Company unions unconstitutionally dissolved the old militant (continued on page 5)

TRINIDAD BOSSES REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE

Port of Spain, Trinidad.—The board of Inquiry investigating the dispute between the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and the Employers' Association, recommended an increase of 10 per cent in standard wage rates in the oil industry. The Union has expressed its approval of this award.

The Trinidad Leaseholds Oil Company, however, employing about 10,000 of Trinidad's 18,000 oil workers, repudiated the report of the Board of Inquiry and withdrew from the Employers' Association. Trinidad Leaseholds broke off negotiations with the workers' Union and announced that they will introduce new wage rates without reference to the Union.

The Company announced also that it would stop deducting Union subscriptions from the workers' pay.

Georgetown.—The police have refused Dr. Jagan, deposed premier of this country, and leader of the Peoples' Progressive Party, permission to travel to London to attend a conference of the Movement for Colonial Freedom. This organisation is supported by several Members of Parliament, local Labour Parties, co-op guilds, and trade unions.

Police have also refused to vary restrictions on Dr. Jagan, which limit his movements, even for the care of his patients, to the boundaries of the city of Georgetown.

CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

OCTOBER



1955

What was the real reason for sacking Jamaican preacher?

NEWS last month that Dr. J. L. Wilson, Bishop of Birmingham, would not confirm the appointment of Dr. Marcus James to a local diocese, came as a low blow to all West Indians.

"Caribbean News" reported Dr. Marcus James' projected appointment in our May 1954 issue.

The brilliant Jamaican Doctor of Divinity has already made his mark on the international level, and his appointment to a Birmingham locality was some mark of respect shown at least by the church. Here was a man who could from his office and wide experience help to smooth the many rough edges that resulted from immigrating West Indians settling down amongst British workers.

Pettifogging excuse

Finance and Housing? These are the petty fogging excuses that have been put forward for the failure to confirm Dr. James' appointment. Any wonder that he is very aptly reported as commenting, that he regrets that such material matters, should hinder him in his mission.

What is the Truth?

Press reports coming out of Jamaica during August this year, tipped Dr. James as Suffragan Bishop of Jamaica, now that a coloured man the Rev. P. Gibson has been elevated to the Bishopric there on the retirement of European Dr. Dale. Dale was not loved in Jamaica. Dale's farewell carried with it no

(continued on page 2)

St. Kitts losing skilled men

ALTHOUGH Jamaica is the biggest single source of West Indian emigration to Britain, emigrants are increasingly departing from other smaller territories. One comes across more and more West Indians from Montserrat, Antigua, and other small islands.

St. Kitts is also becoming prominent. With a population of 50,000, over 500 Kitticians have left their homeland in recent months. Many of these are skilled workers, and fears have been expressed that if the trend continues, the island will be losing some of its most skilled men.

"New Commonwealth" has this comment: "Opportunities and variety of work are limited. It is not altogether a matter of going to a big country to earn plenty in a short time. In St. Kitts, land is at a premium. The young people feel they are too caged in and emigrate they must, for better or worse."

WOW!! — Some Friendship!



This member of the West Indian delegation certainly enjoyed the Festival in Warsaw. (See story on page 4)

Grenada and Barbados severely hit by storm

THE terrific hurricane sweeping the Caribbean has wreaked heavy toll in lives and damage to West Indian islands.

Reports indicate that the little island of Grenada suffered heaviest with about 80 dead, while tiny Carriacou, just off Grenada suffered 38 dead. In Barbados, 27 people are reported killed. Many more casualties have been inflicted with thousands homeless and severe damage to crops, livestock and communications within the islands.

NOTE THE

NEW ADDRESS

Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)
& Caribbean News

100, Rochester Row, Victoria, London, S.W.1.

★ EDITORIAL ★ Labour and Colonies

THE 54th Annual Conference of the Labour Party taking place at Margate from October 10th to 14th, is another big event for the Labour movement, following the T.U.C. Congress earlier last month.

Of direct interest to West Indians and other colonial people are motions on the Agenda dealing with the colonies.

Three resolutions put by constituency Labour Parties deal with "Aid to Underdeveloped Countries". These resolutions pose in some form or another the raising of colonial living standards by increasing spending on economic development.

While such sentiments are to be welcomed, one cannot help detecting a general weakness in that they do not go beyond philanthropic proposals.

There is a certain moralising tone of doing something for the underprivileged, of spending more money through welfare schemes, but no conception of what the colonial people can do once exploitation is stopped and national independence achieved.

Under the section "Dependent Territories", three resolutions are tabled, the best of which is from the Electrical Trades Union.

This calls for "the withdrawal of all armed forces from the colonial territories, and the granting to the colonial peoples the democratic right to elect their own governments, and pledges its support to the colonial peoples to obtain complete national independence".

It is to be hoped that in the interests of both the British and colonial peoples, Conference will give serious thought to this motion which contains the essence for a policy of really ending colonialism.

For too long official Labour Party colonial policy has been as the liberal wing of the Tories.

It is high time Party policy be changed to step in line with the advanced aspirations of the colonial peoples, rather than be used to defend the interests of imperialism under the guise of a theory of gradualism and high sounding phrases about development and aid taken out of context with national independence.

Leaders have shed many crocodile tears about the backwardness of colonial peoples, and the need for 'sacrifice' by the British people to help them.

And of course here are sincere Labourites who would be prepared to make this sacrifice. We feel, however, that far from entailing sacrifice, the liberation of Britain's colonies would mean freeing resources for mutual advancement in friendship, opening up a new era in our relationship. The money now spent to hold on to the colonies would be used to better purpose, the long period of military service for British youth would be unnecessary, and big new trading opportunities would become available.

If those people in the British Labour Movement who are honestly prepared to sacrifice to help the colonial people were to see the question in this new light, how much more strength would be added to their struggle, in the firm conviction that in fighting for liberation of their colonial brothers they are at the same time carrying on the best fight for the advancement of the British people!

Coloured Workers

DELEGATES representing 8 million British workers unanimously went on record against racial discrimination, at the Trades Union Congress at Southport last month. Congress welcomed coloured colonial workers into the movement.

The full resolutions are printed on this page.

Now that the T.U.C. officially has expressed itself against any form of racial discrimination, the job remains of getting this realised in action.

There are still doubts and fears and prejudices among many workers and trade unionists in Britain concerning coloured workers, and the decisions taken by the T.U.C. must now find its way down to the rank and file trade unionist.

If the T.U.C. and affiliated unions would now use the resources and machinery at their disposal to get these ideas percolated through the movement by means of propaganda and attractive literature, it would go a long way in orienting British workers to relations with their fellow workers from the colonies.

Also needed is propaganda and literature for introducing colonial workers to the traditions and principles of British trade unionism, so that they are able to participate fully in the movement.

Unity of workers of whatever colour is surely the crux of the march to better conditions and standards.

T. U. C. Goes on Record Against Colour Bar

THE British Trades Union Congress meeting in Southport, unanimously adopted three resolutions of immediate concern to West Indian Workers.

Two opposed racial discrimination and the third tackled economic development; these are the resolutions:—

"This Congress condemns all manifestations of racial discrimination or colour prejudice whether by governments, employers or workers. It urges the General Council to lose no opportunity to make the trade union attitude on this issue perfectly clear and to give special attention to the problems emerging in this country from the influx of fellow workers of other races with a view to removing causes of friction and preventing exploitation".
(Civil Service Clerical Association)

"This Congress affirms its complete opposition to all forms of racial discrimination in whatever country it manifests itself".
(Association of Cinematograph and Allied Technicians).

Development

"This Congress welcomes the workers from overseas undeveloped Commonwealth areas into Britain and into employment in British industry. It opposes all attempts based on the colour bar to deny accepted rights to citizens of the British Commonwealth."

"Congress, however, is of the opinion that these coloured workers are driven from their homeland by poverty and social insecurity which are due mainly to unbalanced economies by long years of Colonial exploitation. Congress is firmly of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to develop the resources of Colonial and Commonwealth territories within the British Commonwealth so as to establish balanced economies which would make it unnecessary for the native populations to seek employment and security elsewhere".
(Chemical Workers' Union).

One has only to add that true economic development to serve West Indian interests can only come with political independence and a democratic federation.

More Coconuts...

Kings, on, Jamaica.—After years of setback following the hurricanes of 1944 and 1951, Jamaica's coconut industry is experiencing a revival.

Total production of copra is expected to be 11,000 tons this year, and an export surplus is expected.

In the next few years about 100,000 more coconut trees will be added to the 4,200,000 now bearing.

... and Sugar

Latest estimate for the Jamaican sugar crop is now put at 395,297 tons. During July 4,000 tons of sugar were exported to the United Kingdom, and 18,025 tons went to Canada.

B.G. Tries For Loan

Georgetown, British Guiana.—The financial Secretary of British Guiana, Mr. W. O. Fraser, told the Legislative Council that he will ask permission to raise a loan of 60 million West Indian dollars to carry out the colony's five-year development programme.

NEW AIR SERVICE

A new air service is to be started by British West Indian Airways, using latest Viscount turbo-prop. airliners. The new run will touch New York, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Barbados and Trinidad, and is expected to commence on November 5th.

Preacher

from page 1

weeping, on the contrary, when news came through of the promotion of 'Bish' Gibson, former Headmaster of Kingston College, (secondary boys' school) jubilation went wild both in lay and clerical circles at the smashing of another coloured hurdle in the way of colonial people.

Dr. James, a scholarly young priest of 34 years is a modern churchman of wider vision. Intensely interested in the youth of the world, especially West Indians, he has travelled widely in the U.S.A., throughout the British Isles, and found his way to Moscow, as personal representative of Canon Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Since then, as a guest of the World Federation of Democratic Youth he has visited China, during off-time his post as a chaplain to London University. Typical of this eagerness to know and understand the problems confronting youth in the close arena of international affairs, Dr. James recently attended the Fifth World Youth Festival in Poland, where amongst other activities, he freely conducted a Christian service with interested youth.

From his powerful sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral denouncing racial atrocities by Europeans in Kenya, Africa, Dr. James has won a place amongst the most moral in mankind.

Who could more fittingly serve the young people of Birmingham during 1955 and after...?

Dr. Wilson, as Bishop of Birmingham has rejected this man—We all Demand, Why?

"...a very good job. We need more of that kind of stuff for these parts."

CHEDDI JAGAN

SUGAR

THE STORY OF A COLONY
by Billy Strachan

in bright colours with six excellent illustrations in cartoon form

A thorough exposure, with facts and figures, of West Indian exploitation

Price 9d.



Order from Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch)

ERIC WILLIAMS versus CARIBBEAN COMMISSION

TWO tiny gems have just come out of the iron-curtained Caribbean. Both are from Trinidad. Both are by Dr. Eric Williams.

The booklets have come about as a result of the Caribbean Commission, going lower than ever in their dirty tricks and finally abandoning one of their ablest stalwarts—Dr. Eric Williams.

In 'My relations with the Caribbean Commission 1943-1955' Dr. Williams spills all the beans about the struggle that he has had to maintain until now a post that fitted his academic distinction. The star scholar from Queens Royal College (Trinidad) who went on to Oxford University bagging sundry honours then lecturing at Howard University, U.S.A., where he produced his excellent 'Capitalism and Slavery', followed by 'Negro in the Caribbean', tells a sad tale of a lesson that took him twenty-years to learn. In his own words:

"I learned then, how the imperialists operate—by condemning colonials without giving them a hearing".

Thousands of West Indians know and understand what colonial status means. It does not really take a University to teach the lesson, but, thank goodness Dr. Williams has given a pretty factual survey of how the imperialists treat one of our brothers who has hardly been equalled in the field of sociological research and its allied subjects.



Williams explains the existence of the Caribbean Commission and its predecessor, the Anglo-American Caribbean Commission as a 'part of the price extracted by the United States for aid to the European Governments (Britain, France and Holland) during the war'. He confirms suspicions of the most sincere, understanding West Indian politicians that, as far as the West Indies is concerned there has not been really any need for the Commission. The West India Royal Commission 1938, had provided all the necessary information; but contrarily for the imperial powers, it was important to have a listening post in the British West Indies. It is difficult to understand how the author stomachs the insults and assisted this body he now ruthlessly exposes so well.

"My Relations . . ." is a very thorough, detailed account, carrying with it several important political lessons, on how we pay, indirectly, for the sponsoring of an organisation working against us, providing jobs for second-rate officials from the metropolitan countries:

"A Dutch official was appointed to my staff over my protests, precisely because he was related by marriage to one of the co-Chairmen.

"His work was absolutely worthless and I had to transfer a part of it to a Jamaican economist . . . Elsewhere, he draws another lesson when he reported comments of appreciation from his mixed staff, thus,

"I take away something more valuable—the appreciation of my junior colleagues.

"It was signed by 55 staff members, 51 of them

BOOK WORLD

West Indian, the remaining four non-West Indian . . .

"Two are English, one French, one American . . . Their association with my West Indian colleagues I deeply appreciate, not only in itself, but also because it shows that, in our struggle for improvement, we can count on assistance from many non-West Indians in our midst, not offered on the basis of master and servant relationship. All foreigners, Ladies and Gentlemen, are not imperialists".

The publication, priced at 12 cents (West Indian currency) was published by Dr. Williams himself, of 17 Lady Chancellor Road, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. There is one marked weakness throughout his otherwise worthy denunciation. Eric Williams seems wholly negligent that he alone, brilliant scholar as he is, can never successfully fight off the menace he so well describes. The word "I", with the inference that he was "Mr. Caribbean", shows how much he has seen the struggle as one of David and Goliath.

There are other conclusions that I could argue, when he touches on political subjects, but let it be recognised that this booklet can be of enormous value to those of slow conviction.

How I hope that Dr. Williams will fully accept the implications with what must be involved when he strikes a cogent note on pp. 49,

"As more and more colonial areas shake off imperialist control, the pressure is increasing on the remaining areas of imperialist influence to provide jobs for outsiders".

Billy Strachan

BLACK and WHITE TOGETHER

LONDON, Sept. 21.

WHITE and coloured workers have been on strike for a month now at the Ann Shelley clothing factory in Stepney. They are refusing to work subject to the abuse, insults, and vile language from a floor manager.

One time previously, as a result of complaints against this man and a stoppage, the Management removed him from his position. But he has been reinstated and has once more resumed his old ways.

The firm now refuses to do anything about it, or to negotiate with the Trade Union to end the dispute.

For one long month, at the time of writing, the workers have been out in defence of their rights. Of the 125 employees about 20 are coloured.

This strike is demonstrating in action the unity of workers, black and white, of English, West Indian, and Pakistani men and women.

Very heartening is the spirit shown by the coloured workers, who are united with their white colleagues.

Mr. H. Regal, factory convener, told me: "The coloured workers are wonderful. They are solidly out with us. It's really remarkable to see coloured women earning £5 or £6 a week and having to pay around

Kingston, Jamaica.—Mr. Adlai Stevenson, American Democratic Party's presidential candidate, described Jamaica and other British occupied territories in the West Indies as an outstanding example of Britain's contribution to world development.

He was speaking here in connection with the official celebration of 300 years of British rule in Jamaica.

Mr. Stevenson referred to the rapid rise in the independence of subject peoples, particularly under British education, as the most significant feature of the middle of the century.

Perhaps he did not see the slums and unemployed of this "paradise isle".



£2 5s. a week for a single furnished room, paying bus fares and coming across London regularly to stand in the picket line". Mr. Regal has been in the trade union movement for 31 years, and he should know.

I spoke to three Jamaican girls this morning on the picket line outside the factory in Commercial Road. And it was a good sight to watch these pretty girls with their placards, including the slogan "125 Workers Against One Manager".

The girls would rather not have their names in print, but one young woman from Jamaica who had worked for Ann Shelley for two years, showed keenness in putting up a fight. The incident occurred in another shop, but she also came out in sympathy.

A girl from Manchester, Jamaica, had been working at Ann Shelley for three years, while another from Kingston had been employed for two years. Their English mates on the picket line with them were full of praise for the West Indian girl's tenacity in the long, bitter struggle.

Splitting tactics

The Management is trying to get strike-breakers from outside the factory, and their show windows are stuck up with advertisements of vacancies. Few outsiders have stepped across the picket lines, however.

The Management made an attempt to split the workers, when they sent a telegram to a coloured woman asking her to get her friends to come in, without success, however.

They also held back the coloured workers' pay packets when the white workers had already been paid off. This was seen as an attempt also to separate the workers.

These efforts to split the workers have led to nought, for the unity displayed on the picket lines between black and white is teaching an important lesson for the whole working class.

A leaflet issued by the strikers says:

"The firm seem determined to break the spirit of the workers, but they will not succeed. We fight for a principle. The principle that no manager shall speak to workers as though we were living in the middle ages. We fight for the right of workers to have self respect. We fight to teach the management that 125 workers are worth more to them than an insulting manager".

C.N. Reporter

[LEFT] Ann Shelley clothing workers stand together outside the factory.

[TOP RIGHT PICTURE]

West Indian and English workers show unity on the picket line.



West Indies quartet wins Festival prize

by a Special Correspondent

WARSAW, August.



The cultural ensemble giving a performance of West Indian Rhythm

Embraces, kisses and gifts made up for language

THE Festival is now over, but the memory of this great event will remain forever with those of us who were there.

The city of the festival, Warsaw, was beautifully decorated for the event. The amount of reconstruction done in ten years of People's rule is remarkable, taking into consideration that after the war the city was so destroyed that there was no water, electricity, transport or inhabitants. The city was literally laid waste by the Nazis.

Out of these ruins emerged a city which, when completed, should be definitely one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Standing majestically in the centre of Warsaw is the great Palace of Culture. This building is a gift from the people of the Soviet Union to the people of Poland.

Throughout the Festival we just had a wonderful time, to put it simply. All over the city, in parks, on the streets, in homes, there was festivity. Never before had we experienced such hospitality as that shown by our hosts. Language was no difficulty. Where that was missing, embraces, kisses, flowers and gifts took place.

Over 30,000 young people from over 40 different countries participated with one expressed desire—Peace and Friendship.

Throughout the Festival there were meetings, where young people from the different countries got together and discussed their common problems, there were tours of the country, visits to factories and other places of interest.

I'll never forget the look of our interpreter with the tears streaming down his face, when the time came for us to bid one another goodbye.

TREVOR CARTER

WHO DOES THE GOVERNING?

BELIZE, B.H.

A FEW more responsibilities are being passed on to the elected members of the British Honduras Executive Council.

The acting Governor announced that Mr. Leigh Richardson, leader of the P.U.P., and Member for Natural Resources, will take over development concessions from the Financial Secretary.

Mr. Philip Goldson, Member for Social Services, will have the additional responsibility for industrial relations, labour, and local government. Essential control is still, however, in the hands of British Government representatives.

A new Governor has been appointed for British Honduras, to take the place of Sir Patrick Renison, who goes to take up Savage's job in Guiana. The new Governor, Mr. Hardwick Thornley, was Chief Secretary of Uganda.

Palace of Science and Culture



This magnificent building is a gift from the Soviet Union to Polish people. All the materials were sent from the U.S.S.R. and Soviet workers constructed it.

SUCCESS crowned the cultural appearances of the West Indies' delegation to the 5th World Youth Festival here. Its percussion quartet (ping-pong, conga, drum, bongo drums, and maracas) won second prize in the folk music competition. It was indeed a happy moment when the prize, a laureate medal and four diplomas, was presented.

The quartet introduced music in a popular medium, which was well received by a large audience. When it had rendered its two selections it was boisterously called back on the stage. But encores are not allowed in competitions. Nevertheless, the quartet had to return. It struck a few bars to quieten the appreciative audience, then danced off stage to renewed applause.

As it had won a laureate prize, it participated in concerts of the laureates. These were held in the Philharmonic Opera House, and the Palace of Culture and Sciences, respectively.

At the second concert, the quartet played inspired music. Earle Lewis, on the ping-pong, found a mood that well suited his fellow musicians. They responded brilliantly. The thunderous applause and an encore, which the audience requested, was well deserved by both sides. It was then that the quartet got the slow, resounding hand clap—a festival sign of merit.

Triumphal tour

The West Indies' delegation of 26 left London in fine festival mood. It kept this mood throughout the journey to Warsaw. So, too, did the peace-loving delegates from 130 countries find Warsaw prepared to greet her guests.

Four days later its cultural programme commenced.

The highlight was the West Indies' National show, this lasted over an-and-a-half hours, and was performed to a full house at the Theatre of Contemporary Arts. Calypsos, dances, music and folk songs of the West Indies made an auspicious bow in Warsaw. This resulted with the group having to fulfil numerous engagements.

Apart from its scheduled programme, it made several impromptu appearances. Of these, its concert in Stalin Plaza was the most successful. As soon as the group arrived, it was surrounded by a huge crowd. This crowd grew to thousands by the time the concert ended.

The group took part in an international show, which was heard over Radio Warsaw. It recorded and made a T.V. film for Radio Warsaw, and made a short film for the Soviet Union.

From its all round performance, one can say, it sure was something there. It is to be hoped that this fine young group would keep moving forward. The West Indies has much to offer in song, dance, calypso, and music, and with breathless anticipation we look forward to their performance in the 6th World Youth Festival in Moscow.

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 100 Rochester Row, S.W.1

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription ofs.d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6.)

NAME

ADDRESS



Symbol of the Warsaw Festival—friendship of youth of all nationalities, colours and creeds.

ANOTHER LEMON FOR THE BOYS

U.S.A./WEST INDIAN CITRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

Washington • During August, two sap-box politicians new into town, their eyes still filled with stardust, in an attempt to supposedly outwit the United States' most scheming agriculturalists.

Norman Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, with Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce (Trinidad), had spent a lot of taxpayers' money flying all over the world and lavishly entertaining. An excuse for a trip to Washington was lacking, until the citrus negotiation idea sprung up, and now the boys can stick another label on the travelling bags in sheer bravado.

The argument for this visit is based on the freedom that the United States citrus producers now enjoy in the United Kingdom market, in accordance with both the Economic Co-operation Agreement (1948), and the subsequent Mutual Security Act (1951). As far as Britain is concerned it was the price of U.S.A. money-lending to bolster up their war-ravaged economy against British workers storming for socialism.

Following that, in 1954, the British Government set up a 5-Man Commission to report on the West Indies Citrus Industry. They pointedly warned:

"In the event of American citrus fruit and the fruit products becoming freely available in the U.K. market, West Indian produce seems likely to be

driven out of that market". (C.N. May '54.)

—but Norman Manley and Albert Gomes think nothing of ignoring the basic fundamentals and continue to callously waste money on expensive trips.

The head of the Florida (U.S.A.) canners' mission, after visiting Jamaica and confirming that there was no real risk of competition in his market from that quarter, as long as Britain refused to provide protective tariffs and guaranteed quotas, very benignly stated.

"The long range problem of maintaining the position of the West Indian citrus industry in the British market, in competition with the Florida citrus industry, was discussed fully, and we have a much better understanding of it than we had before we came to Jamaica.

"We recognise that West Indian grapefruit producers are dependent upon the United Kingdom market, and appreciate their deep concern that they might lose their position in that market if they must sell there in competition with canned grapefruit products from Florida".

Wasteful Venture

Is it conceivable that these two could naively repeat a venture that already proved wasteful, when Bustamante and Gomes visited London on this topic in 1954?

Giving them the benefit of the doubt, one can only hope that the electorate will soon relieve them of their Parliamentary responsibilities to permit time to study elementary political economy.

Guiana Militancy

from page 1

T.U.C., and set up a new body. Its rules embodied an obvious clause which debarred membership to any union which was associated, or affiliated with the W.F.T.U., or the Caribbean Labour Congress. An appeal by thirteen other trade unions in early 1954 failed to make the reactionary T.U.C. leaders delete this clause. Realising, however, their weak position, and the disunity in the ranks of Labour, a move has recently been made to bring into the T.U.C. all the trade union organisations.

While this attempt at achieving unity is being made, other events point to the continuance of reactionary leadership and direction. The T.U.C. has already applied to the I.C.F.T.U. for affiliation. To be convened here with the blessings of the dictatorial Colonial Office regime is a Conference of Sugar and Plantation workers under the auspices of O.R.I.T., the regional body of the I.C.F.T.U.

T.U.C. HANDOUT

The host organisation is the Man-Power Citizens Association, a long established Government protected company union of sugar workers. This body has recently been granted £5,000 by the British T.U.C. to carry out its organisational work, following the advice of Messrs. George Woodcock and Andrew Dagleash of the latter organisation. Mr. Dagleash is here as a special advisor.

The obvious purport of all these activities is the political subversion of the sugar workers. These workers are not only the backbone of the economy of the country. They are also the strongest supporters of the P.P.P. At the 1953 elections, the P.P.P., with the help of its closely associated Guiana Industrial Workers' Union, all the "sugar constituencies". The ineptitude and bankruptcy of the I.C.F.T.U. and British T.U.C. backed Manpower Citizens' Association was clearly revealed by the defeat at the General Elections of its then General Secretary (with loss of deposit in a sugar constituency) and the National Democratic Party which it supported.

RESTRICTIONS

While it is clear that the M.P.C.A. has no support among the sugar workers, the Sugar Plantation Owners' continue to recognise it. The Union has made no effort to see that the Plantation Owners' implement recommendations such as a contributory pension scheme made since 1949 by the Venn Commission of Enquiry with the Sugar Industry.

Under the present state of emergency, when public

assemblies are banned, special permission has to be sought for the holding of trade union meetings. Permission for the holding of a public open-air meeting is being denied to some trade unions, whilst to others more subservient to the bosses and administrators, it is readily granted.

Not too long ago, as President of the Sawmill and Forest Workers' Union, I received a letter from the Police stating that at one of our meetings, I entered into a political discourse, and that should such discussions continue, permission may not be granted in future!

PHONEY DEVELOPMENT

Despite a great deal of propaganda about the so-called Development Programme, the Interim Government has done little to change the base of British Guiana's colonial economy.

The economy continues to rest on the export of two crops; sugar and rice, and the extraction and export of timber and minerals (gold, bauxite and diamond).

While diversification of agriculture has been emphasised, particularly by the West India Royal Commission since 1940, no more than "more talks", "more experts", and "more blue-prints" have materialised.

AMERICAN CAPITALISTS

American and Canadian capitalists are primarily interested in the extraction of minerals. Nearly three million tons of bauxite were exported in 1954. The British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Ltd. has recently acquired a \$2½ million giant dredge with a bucket capacity of 10 cubic feet for alluvial gold mining.

In the Northwest district, extensive plans are now being implemented for the large-scale extraction of manganese. On August 7th, 1955, an official announcement disclosed that the radio-active mineral, monazite, has been discovered in the Rupununi District.

JOINT ROBBERY

Every emphasis is being placed on this aspect of "development". Large C.D. & W. (Colonial Development and Welfare) grants have been made by the British Government for the strengthening of the local Geological Survey Department.

Early this year, this Department was further strengthened by the secondment of an American geologist by the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration (F.O.A.). This signifies the degree of unity of British and American capital in their quest for exploiting the mineral resources of this country.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Government's refusal to change the Colonial economic base in favour of a balanced agricultural and industrial economy is leading to further repercussions for the working class. Unemployment is on the increase. This is due both to a rising population and scientific and technological improvements.

Some idea of the desperate unemployment situation can be gained from recent press announcements: 200 applied for 6 positions as District Government Information Officers, 600 women apply for 40 jobs as Policewomen etc., etc.

NOT INTIMIDATED

The past twenty-two months have taught the inhabitants of this British Colony that they cannot look to a Colonial Office dictatorship for the defence of their living standards. They now see very clearly that the P.P.P. Government was deposited for the benefit of imperialism, for the "Bookers' Monopoly" and its local satellites.

The British Government's declaration that there will be a "period of marking time", with no representative government, but only a puppet nominated legislature "so long as the present leadership and policies of the P.P.P. continue" has not intimidated the people.

Fully realising that this is the only party to defend their interests, they are prepared to vote it into power at any time. It is this knowledge which forces the British Government to rule by emergency decrees and puppets.

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Jamaicans halt fares increase

A JOINT campaign, including public meetings and demonstrations by the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the People's Freedom Movement have forced the Government and the British Bus Company (Close Bros.) to abandon—at least temporarily—its proposals to increase Bus Fares by 50 to 100 per cent.

A law has since been introduced in the Local House of Representatives to amend the franchise of certain Companies to avoid putting into effect Close Bros' demand for increased fares. The protest continues.

Biter bit

STRONG protest by the J.F.T.U., in connection with the conduct of Harry Dennis, Justice of the Peace and owner of a Cane Farm in Hanover, where the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union had called a strike demanding increased wages and better working conditions, has resulted in the Attorney General serving summons on Dennis and others for a breach of the Public Order Law. This followed their gang attack on S.A.W.U.'s picket line last March. Dennis and his gang is to appear in the Local Court shortly for trial. The fact that Dennis is himself a Law Magistrate in the same Court, makes the victory even more significant.

Passport Refused

THE application of Don Horn, organising Secretary of the Sugar and Agricultural Workers' Union in St. Elizabeth, for a passport to attend the Festival of World Youth in Warsaw, Poland, was refused by the Local Immigration Authorities.

A letter from the Chief Immigration Officer, conveying the decision, informed Mr. Horn that his application for a British passport had been refused on security grounds.

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George Foulser, an English worker, asks himself Would I like my sister to marry a black man?

THE first time I met Negro workers was in 1937. I was deck boy on a Cardiff tramp and the firemen were black men. I'd had it drummed into me at school that the English ran the British Empire because of their superior qualities over other white people, but more especially over all coloured people who had not the intelligence to run their own affairs.

I was very surprised indeed, then, to find the black firemen behaving just like English firemen. I thought all black men had dirty habits. In fact these men were far cleaner in their habits than I was at that time.

One thing I remember, I heard a Cardiff-born Negro fireman running down some West Indian seamen, who had recently arrived in the U.K. He said, "They come over here to take the jobs away from us Welshmen". I thought that ridiculous. How could a black man be a Welshman? During my life at sea, I found that a black man could not only be a Welshman; if he was born in London, he could be as good a cockney as myself, with the cockney sense of humour. I never read this sort of thing in the school books. Things like this were not mentioned at all.

ILL FEELING

But at that time, just before the war, shipowners were replacing white firemen by, mainly, West African firemen as they gave the shipowners less trouble. This caused a lot of ill-feeling. Personally, I didn't think it right to replace Englishmen by West Africans, who had no right on British ships, and should be sent home.

Just a little political knowledge would have told me that the West Africans had as much right aboard the ships as I had, and that their apparent docility was due to two things: they were on the average as politically backward as I was, and the conditions on British ships were Paradise after the terrible economic conditions for West Africans at home.

When the war broke out, lots of things changed. I got involved in the class struggle. I didn't know it was the class struggle. All I knew was I got fourteen days' jail on my twentieth birthday for refusing to work more than a fifty-six hour week at sea in war-time, unless in an emergency. That was October 1939, and a couple of years later the hours were brought down to fifty-six, after a few more had gone to jail.

DEEP ROOTED

After the Nazis attacked the Soviets, I became more Left-wing politically. Studying, I found that in a Socialist country there is no racial discrimination. Sometimes, I saw sense in that, sometimes not. The old prejudices had been deeply rooted, planted at a man's most impressionable age, and it was a hard job getting rid of them.

I think that what finally finished my racial antagonism was the time I spent in New York—about nine months after the war's end. I worked at first in the shipping department of a shoe factory—two black men and myself. I think that was when I learnt to let this become a part of my make up: Judge a man by what he is as a man and by nothing else. If he is a good guy, O.K. If he's a bad bastard, the hell with him, and it doesn't matter if he's white, black, red, green, or sky-blue-pink.

I found that in chatting with these two blokes, accepting them as people made sense, and made for far more honest talking than having the sub-conscious

reservation: "He may be as intelligent and as educated as I am, but we are two different kinds of people, white and black".

I had, previously, shied off subjects which I thought might offend black men's racial solidarity. It was much easier now. Talking to one another, as people and about people as people, I felt a damn sight more honest.

And later on I learnt another lesson. Like most seamen in war-time, I was a heavy boozier. When I was introduced to a certain chap (I think he was a professional worker of some sort), who impressed me by his very clear way of reasoning and his self-control, I felt for the first time in my life that here was a black man superior to me as a human being.

The problem I solved last was that of racial inter-marriage. I dodged it for a long time, because I knew I'd have to give myself an honest answer, and it'd be a bad one. And it never occurred to me to tell all my relations with women, wherever I'd sail, never applied any colour bar to myself.

Finally, I asked myself: "Would you like your sister to marry a black man?" And the answer was "No, I wouldn't". I know there are quite a few white people in London who say, airily: "What a silly question. Of course I would, there's no difference. We are all human beings".

If these people honestly thought that question over, and found it easy, I didn't. Analysing my feelings further, though, I found my "No, I wouldn't" was not racial prejudice so much as insularity, snobbishness. Born in a very clannish London (Bermondsey) of English and Irish, I found I would prefer this hypothetical sister to be a Bermondsey waterside worker, a stevedore or lighterman.

UNITY WILL WIN

I wasn't so keen on her marrying any of the other English people, and then, as I ran through the various European races, I was rather surprised to find I'd prefer her marrying a black man to a German, Pole, Greek, or Italian.

After this, I rapidly narrowed my feelings down until I came to this: I would prefer this sister of mine to marry somebody I know—if I had been to school with him, so much the better, but as long as he's a good husband, I'm not really all that much bothered what he is as regards his race.

I wrote this article because of a big job I once worked on, an important job for the boss class. The craftsmen were mostly English, and the labourers mostly Irish. And certain men were deliberately planted on that job to stir up racial animosity, it was that important that the workers shouldn't have

The scheme didn't succeed. That job was marked in that trade for solidarity. If you are working together on a job and we start quarrelling because of our colour, or our religion, or the shape of our nose, we can give up all hope of forcing the boss to give us more pay and better working conditions. Solidarity can win, but disunity must

That is the thing we must remember. As we do it doesn't matter who we are, or where we come from, we have a common enemy, the boss class, and the only way we can beat our enemy is to stick together.

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